



What is Public Pre-K?

Early Childhood Programs: Pre-k, Pre-school, Nursery School, Child Care, Head Start

- Funded and directed at a state level
- Serves children pre-kindergarten (age 3 or 4 yrs.)
- Early Childhood Education is primary focus
- Offers a group learning experience at least two days/week
- Distinct from state's system for subsidized child care; but may be coordinated and integrated with the subsidy system for child care
- State supplements that expand number of children served can be considered (like state supplements to Head Start)
- Universal vs. Targeted

National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER),
2006 State Preschool Yearbook

National View

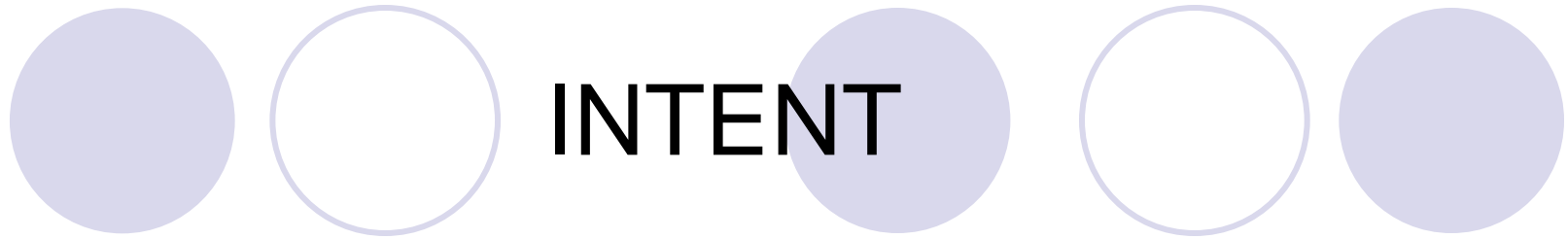
(NIEER 2006 State Preschool Yearbook)

- In 1980, 10 states had pre-kindergarten programs
- 2005/06:
 - 38 states and the District of Columbia have one or more pre-kindergarten initiatives, a total of 48 programs.
 - 20% of four year olds nationwide (805,807)
 - 40% increase over last five years
 - 26 states serve three year olds
 - 3% of three year olds nationwide (136,959)
 - 3.3 billion dollars for 3 and 4 year olds



The Picture in Maine

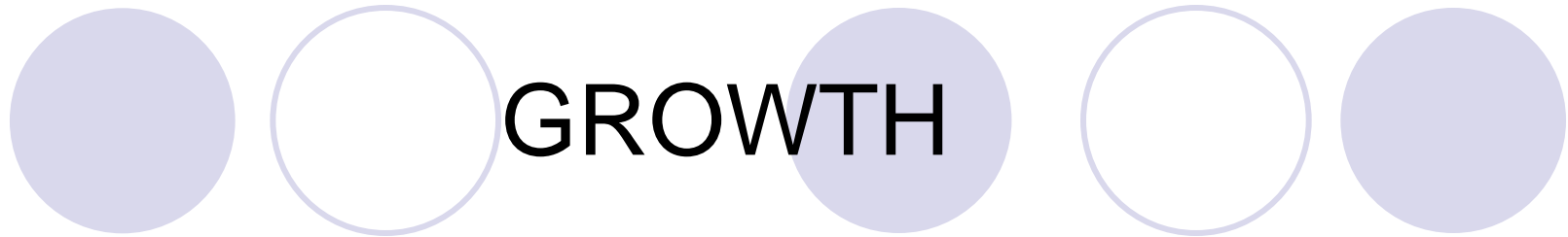
- ❑ 1983 Legislation established Two-Year Kindergarten Program
- ❑ Title 20-A, Chapter 203, Sub Chapter II, Permissive Legislation
- ❑ One of six states funding public pre-K through the school funding formula: ME, NE, OK, VT, WI, WV



- Recognition of Early Years
- Children's Cabinet prioritizes Early Childhood Readiness, B-5
- Link state-wide initiatives that are focused on an integrated early childhood system
- Maine's Early Childhood Systems Initiative

2004 Maine Recommendations for Core Indicators of Readiness

- Families Ready For Children
- Ready Communities
- Ready Early Care and Education
- Ready Schools



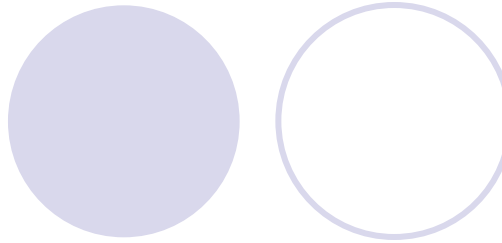
288 School Administrative Units:
2006-07 88 SAU's

556 Elementary Schools 118 Operating a Preschool Program (21%)

	Actual Programs	Partnerships	# Children
<input type="checkbox"/> 1997-98	27		
<input type="checkbox"/> 2003-04	84	21 (25%)	1644
<input type="checkbox"/> 2004-05	91	23 (25%)	1900 (+16%)
<input type="checkbox"/> 2005-06	96	27 (28%)	2088 (+10%)
<input type="checkbox"/> 2006-07	110	32 (29%)	2263 (+8%)
<input type="checkbox"/> 2007-08	118 (approximate)	40 (34%)	

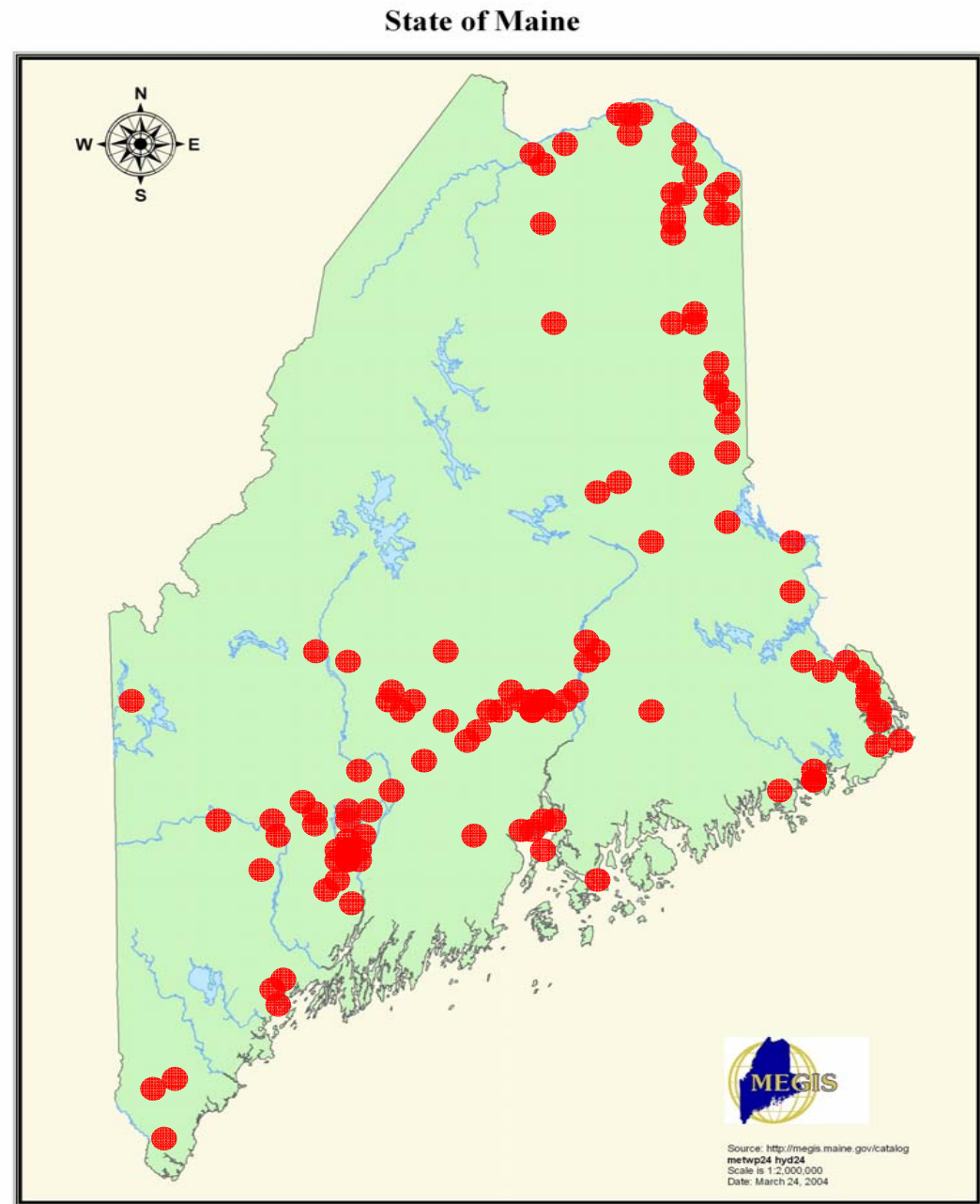


- Approximately 13,500 four year olds in Maine
- 17% participate in public pre-k
- Majority of programs are in rural areas
- **NAEYC ACCREDITED PROGRAMS: 8**
(7%)



Geographic Distribution of 4-year-old Programs

Fall 2006



ESSENTIAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES BASIC COUNT ALLOCATIONS

- 2005/06

- ✓ Basic Count Allocation

- \$7,243,131 COMBINED TOTAL

- 3,744,583 State Share

- 3,498,547 Local Share

- 2006/07

- ✓ Basic Count Allocation

- \$8,090,532 COMBINED TOTAL

- 4,247,915 State Share

- 3,842,616 Local Share

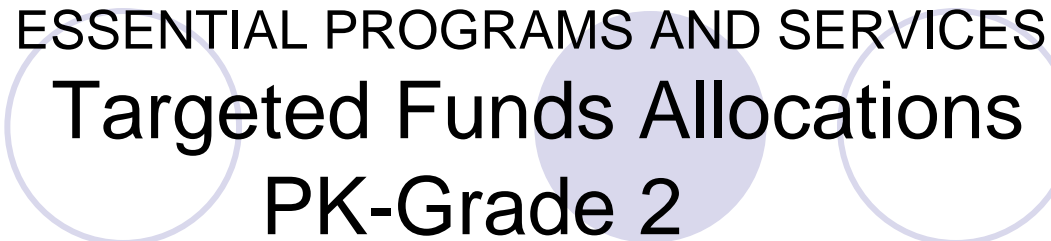
- 2007/08

- ✓ Basic Count Allocation

- \$8,776,484 COMBINED TOTAL

- 4,510,608 State Share

- 4,265,876 Local Share



ESSENTIAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES Targeted Funds Allocations PK-Grade 2

- 2005/06
 - ✓ 19,896,400 COMBINED TOTAL
10,286,122 State Share
9,610,278 Local Share
- 2006/07
 - ✓ 22,093,119 COMBINED TOTAL
11,599,943 State Share
10,493,176 Local Share
- 2007/08
 - ✓ 24,103,395 COMBINED TOTAL
12,387,759 State Share
11,715,636 Local Share

School Units are required to expend PK-2 targeted funds on early childhood programs for students age 4 through 9 in accordance with 20-A MRSA Chapter.



OTHER RESOURCES

- Title I
- Title I C
- Title II
- Title V
- IDEA, Part B, Section 611
- IDEA, Part B, Section 619
- Federal Impact Aid Funds
- Even Start
- Family Literacy
- Career and Technical High Schools ECE Programs



Approaches to Delivery

- ☐ Four year old programs are administered through local school districts



COMMUNITY APPROACHES

☐ Programs can be offered in

- Public School Setting
- Community Program Setting
- Partnership Model
- Itinerant Teacher Model



Community Program settings

- ☐ Centers, including Head Start, private non-profit and for-profit centers, college and university programs, parent-child centers.
- ☐ Family child care



Implementing a community based program

- **Local districts enter planning process with required input from the community.**
- **Local district decision**
- **Local school committees approve the concept/addition of a four year old program**
- **Local school districts have capacity to subcontract or partner with community based providers**
- **Schools submit plans to DOE for program approval**



Challenges and Opportunities

- ❑ Balancing the development of early education for children with the needs of working families
- ❑ Supporting Strong Partners
- ❑ Aligning Quality



FOUR YEAR OLD RESOURCE GROUP

- Established March, 2005:
- A resource towards understanding and encouraging community based approaches.
 - Establish Cross Systems Dialogue
 - Four Year Old Program Packet Information
 - Website Development
 - Pre-K Now Site Visit, June 2005
 - MAINE4KIDS! Public Pre-K Forums
 - Application Revisions
 - Draft Standards
 - Regional Coaching Model




MAINE 4 KIDS! PUBLIC PRE-K FORUMS

- Funded by Pre-K Now
- Four regional forums to build a shared understanding:
 - of the benefits of voluntary public pre-k
 - what we mean by “high quality”
 - how a community approach can look
- For school districts community early childhood partners, parents, civic and business leaders and policymakers
 - ✓ Oct, 2006 New Gloucester
 - ✓ May, 2007 Bangor
 - ✓ May 2007 Machias
 - ✓ Oct 2007 Presque Isle



ENACTED

- ☐ LD 1513, “An Act to Require Coordination of Early Childhood Programs for Children 4 Years of Age in Maine”
- ☐ LD 560, “An Act To Integrate the Approval of Early Childhood Education Plans for Children 4 Years of Age into Basic School Approval for Elementary Schools.”
- ☐ LD 1831 Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 115: Certification, Authorization and Approval of Educational Personnel Part I and II, Requirements for Specific Certificates and Endorsements, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education”

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- ☐ Coordination among agencies (i.e. DOE, DHHS/OCCHS, Licensing agencies, Subsidy programs.)
 - ☐ Maximizing funding streams
 - ☐ Establishing equitable standards for all settings
 - ☐ Providing sufficient resources for programs to achieve standards

CONTACT INFORMATION

- ❑ DOE WEBSITE

<http://www.state.me.us/education/programslist.htm>

FOUR YEAR OLD PROGRAMS

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MEANINGMAKING

- Joy, wonder, curiosity, trust, respect

